

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LUSAKA 02751 101137Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /071 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6534

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LILONGWE

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 2751

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT ZA

SUBJECT: KAPWEPWE REJOINS UNIP

1. IN A MOVE WHICH HAS BEEN THE SUBJECT OF
SPECULATION FOR SEVERAL MONTHS, FORMER VICE PRESIDENT
SIMON KAPWEPWE HAS JOINED ZAMBIA'S RULING PARTY,

THE UNITED NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE PARTY (UNIP).
JOINING KAPWEPWE IN PLEDGING LOYALTY TO PRESIDENT
KAUNDA, THE PARTY AND THE GOVERNMENT, WERE KAPWEPWE'S
CHIEF POLITICAL ASSOCIATES--JUSTIN CHIMBA, JOHN CHISATA,
PETER CHANDA AND MUSONDA CHAMBESHI. THE
ANNOUNCEMENT WAS MADE SEPTEMBER 9 FOLLOWING A
STATE HOUSE MEETING IN LUSAKA BETWEEN KAUNDA
AND KAPWEPWE.

2. ACCORDING TO A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN, KAPWEPWE
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 LUSAKA 02751 101137Z

AND HIS LIEUTENANTS GAVE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT:
" FOR THE SAKE OF COMPLETE UNITY IN THE NATION AND
FOR THE SITUATION NOW OBTAINING IN THE COUNTRY,
WE HAVE FOUND IT IMPERATIVE AND UNAVOIDABLE
TO COME BACK AND JOIN FORCES WITH THE PARTY. WE
THEREFORE CALL UPON ALL FOLLOWERS TO REJOIN
THE PARTY." THE SPOKESMAN ALSO SAID THAT PRES KAUNDA

WELCOMED THE GROUP AND CALLED ON THE PARTY'S RANK AND FILE TO ACCEPT THE ACTION FOR THE SAKE OF NATIONAL UNITY. NO CONDITIONS WERE MENTIONED AS HAVING BEEN MET BY KAUNDA IN RETURN FOR KAPWEPWE'S ACTION.

3. KAPWEPWE BROKE FROM UNIP IN 1971 TO FORM THE UNITED PROGRESSIVE PARTY (UPP) ATTACKING UNIP'S ADMINISTRATION AND CHARGING THE GOVERNMENT WITH CORRUPTION. THE UPP WAS BANNED THE FOLLOWING YEAR AND KAPWEPWE AND A NUMBER OF HIS FOLLOWERS WERE DETAINED. KAPWEPWE WAS RELEASED FROM DETENTION IN EARLY 1973. AND WON A COURT JUDGEMENT AGAINST THE GOVT OF ZAMBIA FOR MISTREATMENT WHILE IN DETENTION. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL

4. COMMENT: KAPWEPWE'S DECISION TO REJOIN UNIP DOES NOT COME AS A MAJOR SURPRISE AND HAS BEEN RUMORED FOR SEVERAL MONTHS. THE ACTION, NEVERTHELESS, IS A SIGNIFICANT POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT AND MAY PRESAGE PLEDGES OF LOYALTY FROM REGIONAL PARTY LEADERS LIKE ARTHUR WINA WHO HAVE BEEN MANEUVERING AGAINST KAUNDA.

5. ALTHOUGH THERE HAS BEEN NO OFFICIAL COMMENT REGARDING WHAT KAPWEPWE'S POSITION IN THE PARTY WILL BE, A COMMENT IN THE ZAMBIA DAILY MAIL EDITORIAL OF SEPT 10 INDICATES IN MAY BE A SUBSTANTIAL ONE IN FAIRLY SHORT ORDER. THE EDITORIAL URGES THE PARTY MEMBERSHIP TO ACCEPT KAPWEPWE AND CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LUSAKA 02751 101137Z

HIS FOLLOWERS AND WARNS THAT "THERE WILL BE THOSE WHO WILL ARGUE THAT THESE MEN SHOULD HAVE WORKED THEIR WAY UP INTO THE PARTY." IN AN ACTION PROBABLY RELATED TO THE RECONCILIATION, UNIP ONLY TWO WEEKS AGO DROPPED ITS TWO-YEAR MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENT FOR THOSE SEEKING PARTY OFFICE. WITH PARTY ELECTIONS STILL UNDERWAY, KAPWEPWE IS FREE TO RUN FOR PARTY OFFICE, AND WILL PROBABLY SOON BE SELECTED FOR A RESPONSIBLE POSITION.

6. KAUNDA'S DOMESTIC POLITICAL POSITION IS NOW PROBABLY AS STRONG AS IT EVER HAS BEEN. BY GETTING KAPWEPWE AND HIS FOLLOWERS BACK INTO THE PARTY, UNIP ONCE AGAIN WILL HAVE THE STRONG NATIONAL BASE IT HAD BEFORE THE SPLIT OF THE UPP WITH ITS SUPPORT FROM THE BEMBA-SPEAKING PEOPLE IN THE NORTH. THERE UNDOUBTEDLY WILL BE SOME GRUMBLING FROM THE EASTERNERS WHO HAVE ALREADY LOST IN RECENT GOVERNMENT RESHUFFLES AND MAY LOSE MORE WHEN THE PARTY CONGRESS ELECTS A NEW CENTRAL COMMITTEE NEXT YEAR. OVERALL, ZAMBIA'S NATIONAL UNITY WILL BE STRENGTHENED AND KAUNDA'S CONTROL AND PREMINENCE CONSOLIDATED. THE MOVE MAY ALSO END SPECULATION ABOUT WHETHER OR NOT NATIONAL ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD NEXT YEAR.

LOW

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Message Attributes

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TAGS: PINT, ZA, UNIP, UNITED NATL INDEPENDENCE PARTY, (KAPWEPWE, SIMON)
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